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## REPORT OF THE CURATORS.

The Curators report that the Museum of the Academy continues in good state of preservation, and has steadily advanced in orderly arrangement, labelling, numbering, and cataloguing. While such is the case we take the opportunity of directing attention to what may be viewed as a serious defect in our otherwise valuable museum, one which greatly narrows its usefulness. We allude to the inequality of our collections, the incomplete condition, and almost apparent exclusion of certain departments, while others are so richly or even excessively represented. This state of things which we greatly regret is in a measure due to unavoidable circumstances. Notwithstanding the main object the Academy has had in view in forming and maintaining a museum, it has never had the means to establish it in such a way as to illustrate all classes, orders, and families of natural history. The museum has grown almost entirely through the gift of its members and friends, of specimens and collections of specimens accidentally picked up or sought as the favorites of collectors. While we have thus become greatly enriched in objects of more conspicuous character, we have received comparatively few of the things of less general interest, though of great proportionate value to the completion of the whole natural series. An attendant evil on this mode of growth of our museum, is that the means raised by the Academy through the generosity of its members and patrons have been insufficient to provide accommodation for the collections, except in a crowded and disjointed condition unfavorable for exhibition and study. Now that we have the more favorite departments of natural history so well represented, we are hopeful that the Academy may be able to induce its friends to place sufficient means at the disposal of the Curators, to make purchases, as opportunities may present, of such objects as shall be required to render the museum complete, and illustrate all departments of both organic and inorganic nature. For this purpose comparatively little means are required, even the sum annually of \$500 for half a dozen years, would go very far towards giving the museum that completeness which we feel is so desirable to enable

the student to read the book of nature from the beginning to end.<sup>1</sup>

In regard to what has been done in the museum during the year we present a brief report of the able Curator in charge:—

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 12, 1878.

DR. JOS. LEIDY,

*Chairman of Board of Curators.*

DEAR SIR: I herewith inclose the following report of work done in the museum during the year:

Mr. John A. Ryder has completed the re-labelling and arrangement of the Ophidians, the Saurians, and the Batrachians, and a similar re-arrangement and re-labelling of the collection of Fishes has been commenced.

The collections of mammal skins, birds, and insects have been thoroughly examined; also the alcoholic collections have been attended to, and the alcohol renewed when necessary. The re-labelling of the collection of minerals has been finished, and a numbered catalogue of the same prepared; numbers will be attached to each specimen corresponding with catalogue. The large increase of donations to this department has required the addition of six cases.

Progress is being made in the labelling and arrangement of the bird collection; this work being done by Mr. Spencer Trotter.

Most of the specimens presented, deposited, and purchased during the year have been labelled, and put in their proper places.

Respectfully, C. F. PARKER.

Besides the additions to the museum announced in special reports of Conservators of Sections, the Curators present the following list:—

The most important donations consist of a superb articulated specimen of a male Gorilla, and a young animal, in alcohol, from Ogove River, Africa, presented by Dr. Thomas G. Morton, and the original specimen of a slab of red sandstone, with foot prints of the *Sauropus primævus*, of Lea, from the lower coal strata of Pottsville, Pa., presented by Dr. Isaac Lea.

*Mammals.*—*Phascolaretos cinereus*, *Belideus breviceps*, *B. tasmanoides*, *Phalangista*, *Macropus* (fœtus fem.), and *Ornithorhynchus anatinus*, eight specimens from Australia, presented by Dr. Clive DaCosta Belisario. *Zapus hudsonicus*, *Geomys bursa-*

<sup>1</sup> It may be worthy of note, that the Academy has never been able to place at the disposal of the Curators annually even a few dollars for the purchase of desirable specimens.

rius, 2 *Sorex Cooperi*, *Hesperomys leucogaster*, 2 *H. leucopus*, 3 *do. var. sonoriensis*, *Evotomys rutilus*, 2 *Arvicola austerus*, *Perognathus hispidus*, from Fort Sisseton, Dakota, Dr. C. E. McChesney, U. S. A. Nine skulls and skins of *Aluatta palliata*, *Cebus hypoleucus*, *Sapajou melanochir*, *Felis maragaya*, *Dicotyles torquatus*, *D. labiatus*, 2 *Cervus*, *Arctopithecus castaneiceps*, and *Tapirus*, from Costa Rica, Wm. M. Gabb. Mounted skeleton of Rat Kangaroo, Joseph Jeanes. *Belideus flaviventer*, Philadelphia Zoological Society. Three skulls and skin of a squirrel, Wyoming, Dr. J. Van A. Carter. Tooth of sperm whale, Dr. Isaac Lea.

*Birds*.—A young male Bald Eagle, presented by George M. Tatham. Nest and eggs of the Snowbird, Giles Co., Va., Dr. H. Haupt, Jr. Six bird skins from Brazil, Mr. Sarmiento. Eggs of *Penelope grayi*, Geo. Pavonarius. Nests of American Goldfinch and Indigo birds, J. O. Shimmel.

*Reptiles and Fishes*.—Two *Jacare*, *Thrasops ahaetulla* and *Elaps*, from Brazil, Mr. Evans. Two jars of snakes, from Alabama, Dr. Joseph K. Corson. Skin of *Boa*, from Brazil, Mr. Sarmiento. Two *Ophibolus doliatus*, S. P. Monks. Shed skin of *Coluber*, John A. Krider. *Tropidonotus leberis*, R. C. Davis. Limb bones of the Leather Turtle, New Jersey, John Ford.

Twenty-seven bottles with fishes, etc., obtained during a cruise of the U. S. ship *Portsmouth*, 1872-75, in the Pacific; also a minute Balloon Fish from the Pacific, presented by Dr. W. H. Jones, U. S. N. *Amphioxus lanceolatus*, from Mediterranean, Dr. H. E. Evarts. Young Shark, Pacific, Mr. W. M. Rodes, Chief Engineer U. S. Coast Survey. Buffalo Fish, Ouachita River, Ark., Dr. G. W. Lawrence. *Elops saurus* and *Echeneis remora*, from Atlantic, Mr. Holbrook. Two bottles of fishes, Alaska, Dr. Geo. H. Horn. Dental apparatus of *Zygobates jussieu*, Dr. Isaac Lea.

*Mollusks*.—A bottle of *Ascidians*, New York harbor, presented by Dr. George H. Horn.

*Articulates*.—Twenty-seven bottles minute Crustaceans, etc., dredged in the Pacific, during a cruise of the *Portsmouth*, 1872-75, presented by Dr. W. H. Jones, U. S. N. Twenty-one species Crustaceans dredged off the coast of Massachusetts, presented by Dr. T. H. Streets.

*Thelyphonus giganteus*, Florida, Dr. J. H. Janeway, U. S. A. Large *Scolopendra* obtained living in this city, and probably in-

troduced in some packing material from the West Indies; also *Hippa talpoidea*, from John Ford. *Squilla ampusa*, Fortress Monroe, S. Powell. Nest of Trap-door Spider, from California, W. S. Vaux. Four specimens of insect architecture, Rev. H. C. McCook. Gall, from California, E. Goldsmith. Three bottles of *Cirripeds*, from New York harbor, Dr. George H. Horn.

*Radiates and Protozoans*.—*Strongylocentrotus lividus*, from Nantes, France. Presented by Dr. Isaac Lea. A beautiful coral, *Halomitra pileus*, Sandwich Islands, W. S. Vaux. *Sertularia* and 3 species Sponges, Fortress Monroe, N. C., from S. Powell.

*Fossils*.—Two large frames, with fossil foot-prints, from Connecticut; slab of Triassic shale with rain-drop marks and sun-dried cracks, from Gwynedd, Pa.; *Pentacrinus briareus*, from lias, England, Dr. Isaac Lea.

Molar of Mastodon, from York Co. Pa., Mr. Snyder. Bones of Crocodile, etc., near Hornerstown, N. J., T. A. Conrad. Sharks teeth, vertebræ, shells, echinoderms, etc., from the marl of Vincenttown, N. J., C. B. Barrett. Crinoids from Canton, Ohio, and Crawfordsville, Indiana, J. W. Pike. *Dorycrinus mississippiensis*, Keokuk, Iowa, Gen. W. W. Belknap. *Clupea humilis*, from tertiary of Wyoming, Dr. Joseph Leidy. Cetacean bones, Miocene of Va., Prof. Jeffries Wyman. Fossil wood, numerous *Eudea dichotoma*, and 2 rock specimens, Col. T. M. Bryan. *Favosites niagarensis*, Jackson Co., Ky., W. S. Vaux. Vertebra of a Plesiosauroid, Arkansas, Dr. G. W. Lawrence. Molar of Bison and rib fragments of Manatee, from near Tallahassee, Florida, Prof. S. S. Haldeman. Bones of deer, bear, weasel, etc., from a cave, Bedford Co., Pa., Mr. Wm. Hartley.

*Ethnological and Miscellaneous*.—Indian axe, Moorestown, N. J., E. D. Stokes. Carved drinking cup, from Fiji Islands, Dr. J. P. Bethell. Plaster model of the great pyramid of Cheops, from Wm. H. French; and water-proof coat, made from the intestines of bear, Alaska, Dr. W. H. Jones. Terra-cotta head, found near Nashville, Tenn., and fragments of stone axe, Holmesburg, Pa., T. R. Peale. Four stone implements, Santa Cruz Island, Cal. Stone axe and necklace, from Oahu, Sandwich Islands. Idol from ruins of a temple near Honolulu. Ava cup found with the idol, Dr. W. H. Jones, U. S. N. Water-tight basket, of the Pima Indians of Arizona, from J. B. Ellis.

Two conical caps of the Spathe, or the Trooly Palm, feather

head-dress, skin pouch, Cassava grater, three native baskets, one used for carrying children, etc., on the back, from British Guiana; two marten skins, dressed by the Ute Indians, from Colorado; stone adze, with carved handle, New Zealand; do. Hawaii, Sandwich Islands; rattles, "Shak-shak," used by the Caribs in dancing, paddle, used also as war club and seat, sandals, and carved rattles, from British Guiana; shield of "Roaring Bull," a Comanche chief, scalp of a Comanche Indian, do. of a Modoc Indian, tanned squirrel skin, Idaho; saddle-blanket, made by the Navajo Indians of northern New Mexico; feather head-dress, of the Macusi Indians, of British Guiana; boat with open ends, used to navigate dangerous rivers, made of a single piece of bark, by the Accawois tribe of Indians, British Guiana; a collection of the manufactures of the Indians of British Guiana, consisting of two fans, two wicker trays, two baskets, Matapi, or Cassava squeezer, three bark shoes, sail of the pith of the Ite palm, maquami, or whips, bow, and stone-pointed arrows, blow-gun, and poisoned arrows, two canoe paddles; bamboo fiddle, with bow, drum and sticks, child's hammock, material for making hammock, watsapura, or flute, rattle of a dancing pole, candle, etc., from British Guiana; and a hat, native work of Hawaii, Sandwich Islands, presented by Prof. S. S. Haldeman.

Cast of face, from a mound, Greenup Co., Kentucky, from W. R. Mercer. Indian stone axe, Ashley River beds, South Carolina, from Geo. C. Lewis. Fragment of Indian pottery, containing crushed tourmaline, do. having the appearance of being marked with an ear of corn, Iredell Co., N. C.; fragments of human jaw, stone axe, and ornamented copper-plate, found in a mound 20 miles S. E. of Cedar Key, Florida, presented by Jos. Willcox. Indian pestle, Moorestown, N. J., from A. D. Trimble. Four stone implements, Pennsylvania, from Dr. Geo. H. Horn. Stone spear-head, Havre de Grace, Md., from C. A. Blake.

*Minerals.*—Labradorite, Labrador, E. R. Beadle.

Two Arkansites, Ludlamite, and a fine Orthoclase, C. S. Bement.

A case of Minerals (24 drawers) collected by the late Hugh Davids, Esq.; also, sixteen specimens from various localities, consisting of Corundum, Thulite, Mountain Cork, Grahamite, Topaz, Breunerite in Talc, Scheelite on Quartz, Leucangite, Pyropissite, Margarodite and Chlorophane, Dufrenite, Clintonite, Zircon, Spheue, and Azurite, etc., Mrs. Hugh Davids.

Agate, and Geode of Limonite, Argentine Republic, Moses A. Dropsie. Twenty-five Amygdaloid rocks, from Scotland, Prof. J. Duns. Barite, Brown Co., Kansas; Magnesite, Texas, Lancaster Co., Pa., Prof. A. E. Foote. Vermiculite in Chlorite schist, Dolomite with Apatite and Talc, Steatite Quarry, above Manayunk, Pa., John Ford. Hematite, Morgantown, N. C., Col. B. S. Gaither. Olean oil, McKean Co., Pa.; Lubricating oil, Wood Co., W. Va., Morris W. Harkness. Indurated Talc, Black Horse, E. Bradford, Chester Co., Pa., W. D. Hartman. Limonite, Marble Hill, Montgomery Co., Pa., Russell Hill. Two fine specimens of Corundum, Hog-back Mt., Jackson Co., N. C., Joseph Jeanes. Emerylite, Jefferisite, Oligoclase, and Corundum, Newlin, Chester Co., Pa., W. W. Jefferis.

Magnesite in Serpentine with Chlorite, Putnam Co., N. Y.; Chlinochlore, Chester Co., Pa.; Oolitic Marble, Leavenworth, Indiana; Black and Crinoidal Marble, Actinolite, Glacier Roseg, Switz., Dr. Isaac Lea.

Forty-six minerals, and eight rocks, consisting of the following: Spinel in Chlorite, light-brown Tourmaline, green ditto in Granite, Corundum, Chlorastrolite in Trap, Hydrodolomite with Serpentine and Chromite, Deweylite, nodules of Geyserite, Efflorescence of Salt, group of Quartz crystals, Glauberite, Turquoise, pale Rubellite in decomposing Albite, Corundum with partial metamorphosis into Ripidolite, ditto in Ripidolite and blue Corundum, Zinc Staurolite, Quartz with Sard, Quartz found with Apatite, Hyalite, Garnet, flattened crystal in Muscovite, calcareous Tufa, Muscovite, Menaccanite, Flint, Brookite, Jade, Calcite, Hercynite pseud. after Corundum, Feldspar associated with Corundum, Ceylon, Chlorite from Franklin, Macon Co., N. C., Orthoclase containing Quartz crystals, Biotite schist, Aragonite, Cypoline, etc., presented by Dr. Jos. Leidy.

Thirty-six minerals, and forty-four rocks from various localities, consisting of Phyllite, Bronzite, Stibnite, Topaz passing into Margarodite, Nuttabergite, Tourmaline, Apophyllite and Stilbite, Calcite, Albite, Hypèrsthene and Pyrrhotite with Quartz, Kainite, Kieserite, Stassfurtite, blue Quartz, Delawarite, Cassinite, Lenilite, Hyalite, Molybdenite, Apatite in Talc, Velvet Limonite, Chalcopyrite in Gneiss, Tremolite, Oligoclase, Topaz, Willemite, Gneiss with Lime Uranite, Pyrite, Idiocylophanous Calcite, Malakolite, Chlorite, and Antholite, etc., Theo. D. Rand.

Calcite, Geode of Quartz, ditto of Chalcedony, from Keokuk, Iowa, Dr. J. M. Shaffer and Hon. C. F. Davis. Limonite, Gneiss, Manganese, from Morgantown, N. C., Col. T. G. Walton. Sphene, Pyroxene, Hornblende, white Augite, Serpentine, Gurhofite, Pyrite, Trap, etc., S. A. Monks.

Meteorite, N. C.; Corundum, Muscovite, Quartz, Apatite, Staurolites, pseudomorph Quartz, Biotite, Jeffersonite, Sussex Co. N. J.; Orthoclase, Galenite with Blende, Rutile in Quartz, Alexander Co., N. C., Joseph Willcox.

Fine large specimen of Lilac Fluor Spar, Cumberland, England, Wm. S. Vaux.

Calcite, St. Louis, Mo.; Tourmaline, Warren, N. H.; Apatite with Feldspar and Epidote, Jefferson Co., N. Y.; Chilenite, Chili, in exchange.

Dufrenite, Lava, from Vesuvius; two crystals of smoky Quartz, two Fluorites, six crystals of Amazon Stone, one cluster of crystals of ditto, from Pike's Peak, Col.; Rutile, Lincoln Co., Ga.; Moonstone, Del. Co., Pa.; Arkansite, Hydrotitanite, Perovskite, ditto Cubo-octahedrons, from Magnet Cove, Ark.; Elæolite, Ozark Mts., Ark.; Stilbite, Phila., purchased.

Respectfully submitted by

JOSEPH LEIDY,  
*Chairman of Curators.*

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#### REPORT OF BIOLOGICAL AND MICROSCOPICAL SECTION.

The Microscopical and Biological Section of the Academy, in presenting their report for 1878, state that the year has been one of unusual interest in the Section.

Meetings have been held twice a month with an average attendance of 44 persons.

At most of the meetings papers were read on subjects in which the microscope is used for research, or on strictly biological matters. Among our contributors were Drs. J. G. Hunt, Lautenbach, A. J. Parker, Pierce, F. V. Green, U. S. N., Seiler, M'Quillen, Rev. Dr. McCook, Messrs. Pells, Lewis, Ryder, Perot, J. B. Zentmeyer, and C. Zentmeyer, and the Director, R. S. Kenderdine.

Prof. J. G. Hunt, M.D., will give a course of lectures on Cryptogamic Botany, extending through the winter and spring of 1879.